

Symbolism & Emotional Storytelling Analysis - *Friend*

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In *Friend*, Hone Tuhware uses vivid imagery to symbolically reflect on the passage of time, the loss of a childhood perspective on life, and the hope for reconnection. Tuhware begins *Friend* using rich emotional descriptions to bring the feeling and setting of his childhood memories to life. Though his descriptions are poetic and often don't directly describe, his imagery often details specifics that create a feeling, and flashes of image that the reader can interpret into a complete scene of their own. Tuhware uses the lines "wild stretch of land" (line 3), "sharp-tongued sea" (line 5), "silver-bellied eels, and sea-snails/cooked in a rusty can" (lines 13-14), and "Oyster-studded roots/of the mangrove" (lines 11-12). Each of these fragments piece together to paint an untamed and vivid setting of his childhood land. The imagery is spliced with loss and change, with Tuhware saying the tree that they used to play on is "dead wood now" (line 8), and that its leaves "now stamp/no silken tracery on the cracked/clay floor." (lines 22-24). These lines reference the loss of the tree, and what it symbolizes; childhood, imagination, and connection. As *Friend* goes on, Tuhware expresses his introspection and possibility of healing through reflective and hopeful images. "jewelled fantasies/splendid rags" (lines 29-30) reflect on his adult view of the memories while validating the wonder and emotional truth that a child possesses. Tuhware's final words, "perhaps the tree/will strike fresh roots again:/give soothing shade to a hurt and/troubled world." (lines 31-34), represent the possibility that what was lost – be it friendship, childhood, or cultural attachment – might blossom into a new form. Through its evocative imagery, *Friend* uses symbolic fragments to express a beautiful story of youth, loss, reflection, and hope.

Works Cited

Tuhware, Hone. "Friend." *Genius*, Genius Media Group Inc.,

genius.com/Hone-tuwhare-friend-annotated. Accessed 13 June 2025.